

Ag Video Conference Notes

April 16, 2008

9 a.m.

Present: Gene Tinker, Eric Wiklund, Cindy Martens, Ken Hessenius, Paul Petitti, Nate Young, Dan Olson, Alison Manz, Dan Stipe, Ryan Young, Ted Petersen, Karen Grimes, Dennis Ostwinkle, Mark Heiderscheid

The next Ag Video Conference will be on May 21st at 8:30 a.m. Please mark your calendars and send topics to Cindy Martens or the representative from your office.

Manure Storage offsite-Permitting will be required as if manure storage was at the confinement site. Applicable distances and rules will be determined by the largest confinement that contributes manure. Questions arose as to what would happen if the manure storage contributors would change? Or what if several different facilities contributed? Ken will gather information and get the department's opinion on this and report back.

Dairy Manure Availability-The topic was brought up if a 60-20-20 availability is okay for dairy manure. Midwest Labs states that 60% is available the first year and it was okayed by the department that they are a credible source per department rules. The producer must supply documentation to show why they are using this availability. Be sure to remind the producer of runoff issues with these high application rates. Also remind them that two passes are much better for application safety.

Open Lot Hogs-<1,000 animal units-In parts of Iowa these are again becoming a popular way to raise hogs. There are major runoff concerns with these units. No NMP or MMP is required at this time and no separation distances apply. Pioneer Pork a subdivision of Smithfield Foods out of Colorado is proposing quite a few of these units. Remind them of solids settling, water quality standards and the risk they are taking. They must meet performance standards.

New Owners Existing Confinement-Use specialists and supervisor discretion on these if they have had ownership for a long period of time and have not submitted a new P-index based plan nor notified us of the transfer of ownership an Administrative Order is appropriate. Give them 60 days to get the plan and fees in to the Department.

Low Disturbance-Plan writers are using low disturbance when running the RULSE2 calculations for the P-index. The only way they should be claiming this is if the manure toolbar is specifically labeled as Low Disturbance or if they are using an anhydrous sweep. It is most unlikely that they are using this equipment and it is a fairly significant portion of the P-index calculation. Eric will come up with a paragraph to add to the construction letter or MMP approval letter to address the residue and soil erosion calculation. Also it was discussed as to whether or not the low disturbance should be added to the permit conditions. Engineering staff will discuss this.

Complete Soil Sampling-At least one company is putting a Y in column 11, regarding correct soil testing, when in fact they do not have complete soil testing done. They are putting Y for new sites as they know they have 1 year to get complete samples in. The column is meant to have an N in these cases. Be sure to watch for this and let the MMP preparers know if they are doing it incorrectly.

Non payment of MMP fees-If you have a facility that has submitted their MMP update or Original MMP, but no fees and you have gone through the NOV procedure you need to then turn it over to collections. Just send a paragraph with the information to legal so they can turn it over to collections.

Confined Cattle Manipulating/Moving Manure-If a facility is moving or manipulating their manure, such as stacking it in the barn or moving it from the "lane" to the bedding area this is now considered storage instead of production and they would need to meet earthen standards if it's a dirt floor. If the specialist notices this in the management portion of the site submittal or hears of it during a site survey be sure to talk to the review engineer about it. On unpermitted sites be sure to look for this in the submittal information and add a paragraph to the construction letter if you have a confined cattle site. Dan Olson will come up with a paragraph for us to use. It was discussed that the rules should be updated to specify what

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production is and what is manure storage if on earthen bases, especially regarding poultry verses cattle or should they both be the same?

Manure Application on Frozen Ground-This topic will be addressed at the May commission meeting. Thoughts from the group were that DNR should not make exceptions or exclusions as manure all acts the same during runoff/snowmelt conditions. This could be a big problem for a lot of the small dairies that apply almost daily. Field office staff will help draft language and present it to the Commission. Those who will be part of this are Ken, Eric, someone from FO#1 to address all of the small dairies, FO#4 Ryan or Dan and Karen.

Karst-If it is noted on the CDS or in the mapping that a site is in karst they need to work with Claire to make sure the soils investigation is done properly. Staff must see a copy of an email from Claire confirming the karst determination. If construction is approved Claire needs to know so she can begin tracking their monitoring requirements.

Well Drillers-Discussion will be had as to whether well drillers are considered a “qualified organization” when it comes to determining depth to bedrock at potential karst sites. Should we require professional engineers or soil scientists for this documentation? The decision will be presented at the next Ag video call.

Website Updates-Karen discussed these again and will get the URLs out to the appropriate people within the week and please have updates done by mid or end of May.

Stockpiling Bill-became attached to the NPDES bill and was headed to legislative subcommittee.

Submitted by Cindy Martens